

- Lumber production in BC fell 28% in August
- Aquaculture production remained unchanged in 2007
- Average weekly earnings in BC increased 2.0% in August

The Economy

- Monthly production of lumber by BC's sawmills fell by more than one-quarter (-28.0%) in August compared to the same month a year earlier. Total year-over-year production of BC lumber has fallen steadily since November 2006 and has not seen a truly notable increase since May of the same year. Regionally, Interior mills, which produce most (88%) of the province's lumber, saw output of lumber drop by nearly one-third (-31.8%) while Coastal operations actually picked up production (+23.7%) for the first time in nearly two years.

Nationally, lumber production slumped 26.0% in August. Sawmills in Quebec, the country's second largest producer of lumber, experienced a 21.8% drop in output while those in Alberta saw a slowdown of 4.6%.

Data Source: SC - Catalogue no. 35-003-X

- Total production from British Columbia's aquaculture producers at 80,430 tonnes in 2007, remained virtually unchanged from 2006 levels. While total production of finfish (salmon, trout, steelhead, etc.) rose slightly (+1.8%), output of shellfish (clams, oysters, mussels, scallops, etc) dropped sharply (-14.3%).

While total aquaculture output remained steady, the total dollar value of BC's aquaculture products has fallen roughly one-tenth (-9.9%). In terms of value per tonne of production, BC's aquaculture producers saw a 9.7% drop in value in 2007 to just under \$4,800/tonne from slightly more than \$5,300/tonne a year earlier.

Nationally, aquaculture production dipped 1.3% in 2007 while total value of production was off 7.3%.

Data Source: SC - Catalogue no. 23-222-X

In August, 42,420 British Columbians were recipients of regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits, a decline of 5.1% (*seasonally adjusted*) since July. Nationally, the number of Canadians receiving regular benefits inched 0.2% higher in August almost entirely as a result of an increase (+6.2%) in the number of claimants in Quebec.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

The average weekly earnings of employees in British Columbia¹, including overtime, increased 2.0% (*seasonally adjusted*) in August compared to the previous month. During the twelve months between August 2007 and August 2008, earnings have increased 3.1%. Nationally, the strongest year-over-year growth in earnings was in Saskatchewan (+4.9%), Alberta (+4.8%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (+4.7%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Skilled Trades Employment

- In 2007, 15% of all skilled tradesworkers in Canada were employed in British Columbia, up from 11% in 1987. With the boom in the construction sector in 2007, nearly one-fifth (19.4%) of Canada's carpenters were employed in BC. Alberta, spurred on by the boom in the oil and gas industry as well as the surge in construction, saw its share of trades employment jump from 9% in 1987 to 15% in 2007. Ontario, on the other hand has seen its proportion of the national total of tradesworkers drop off sharply, from 41% in 1987 to 36% in 2007.

Data Source: SC - Catalogue no. 75-001-X

¹ Data is based on the monthly Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (SEPH).

Did you know...

In 2006, over 300 hectares of farmland was dedicated to growing pumpkins?
That's a lot of potential Jack-O-Lanterns!

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Agriculture

Eldercare

- **Approximately 1 in 5 Canadian baby boomers (those aged 45 years and older) provided care to a senior citizen in 2007.** Caregivers were more likely to be women (57%) than men (43%), however, duties performed differed greatly depending on the gender of the caregiver. Female caregivers were more likely than their male counterparts to perform duties such as personal care (female: 37%, male: 17%) and domestic tasks within the home (female: 57%, male: 32%). On the other hand, male caregivers were more likely to take on tasks outside the home (male: 53%, female: 33%) and transportation duties (male: 82%, female: 80%). Nearly 70% of care was performed by a close family member with nearly six in ten caregivers taking care of an aging parent or parent-in-law. Roughly 7% of caregivers reported providing care to a spouse and is often performed with the intent of keeping their partner at home rather than in an institutional care facility.

A little more than half (54%) reported that they were coping "very well" and just over four in ten (42%) were "generally managing". Only a small percentage (4%) reported that they were coping "not well" or "not well at all" with the majority of these being working-aged married women, some (33%) with at least one child at home.

Data Source: SC - Catalogue no. 11-008-X

Aboriginal Children's Survey

- **Higher proportions of First Nations children under the age of 6 years are growing up in large families.** In 2006, 17% of off-reservation First Nations children were living in families of four or more children. This compares with only 8% for non-Aboriginal children. Also, nearly half (49%) of off-reservation First Nations children under 6 that lived in the provinces lived in low-income families compared with just 18% among non-Aboriginal children of a similar age.

Just over half of off-reservation First Nations children lived in communities that their parents ranked as either "excellent" or "very good" with respect to education (schools, nurseries and early childhood education programs) and facilities

such as community centres, rinks, gymnasiums and parks. However, only 17% rated their community as being a place with Aboriginal cultural activities.

Data Source: SC - Catalogue no. 89-634-XWE2008005

The Nation

- **Price indexes for manufactured products and raw materials dropped 1.2% and 7.2% respectively in September when compared to August.** Unlike in August, when the Canadian dollar lost 4.1% of its value against its American counterpart, changes in the exchange rate of the Canadian dollar had a very limited role in determining the movements of the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI). Had the exchange rate remained unchanged in September, the IPPI would have fallen 1.3% instead of the 1.2% measured. The main reason for the 1.2% decline in the IPPI was a rapid downturn (-4.5%) in the prices for petroleum and coal products. In fact, excluding petroleum and coal products, the IPPI was actually stronger (+0.8%) in September than it was in August.

Following a sharp drop of 7.7% in August, the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) fell another 7.2% in September. Downward pressure on the RMPI was again due to weakness in prices for mineral fuels (-11.0%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Infoline Issue: 08-44
October 31, 2008



Happy Hallowe'en

Data and Health Mapping Browser

Introduction

In the simplest form, information can be portrayed as a table of numbers. Statistical calculations can reveal aspects such as mean; and distribution of observations. Graphs commonly show time-series; encourage comparisons; make data sets coherent and are widely used to reveal levels of detail.

With the development of computerized cartography we are now able to display a large volume of data into one picture. This picture, at a glance, can summarize a story about the regional pattern of the data. For example, the most extensive data maps containing the largest volume of information are those showing galaxies and the solar systems within.

With these principles in mind, the data mapping browser prototype was developed by BC Stats, in co-operation with the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria, and the Ministry of Health. Our goal is to demonstrate to the general public the value of displaying and comparing population, health and other related information across multiple geographies within the province.

Through a centralized web-based information system, demographic and socio-economic data can be displayed against relevant health data to provide geographic comparisons of the local populations. Census data by Local Health Area and health indicators by Health Service Delivery Area are the first datasets available. The census data variables have been calculated against their appropriate 'population universes', for ease of interpretation and certainty of comparability.

To access the map browser, click on the URL,

<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/maps/browsers.asp>, or from our main mapping and geography page at <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/georef/geopage.asp>.

Note that any web browser pop-up blockers must be disabled for the mapping browsers to work.

Background

The browsers are aimed at providing basic information across provincial regions on the topics of the health and wellness. Working from the premise that health and wellness rests upon the branches such as livelihood, education, family support, and a healthy environment, among others. In the analysis of the foundations of the core requirements for wellness we can begin to see relationships between chronic diseases and their prevention. To put into the hands of community professionals information that has been collected, cleaned, normalized and offered up in an easy to understand data display are requests we frequently hear from service providers. Whether their field of expertise is in education, health, crime prevention or promoting healthy communities, they all share the common need for basic information that can support their understanding of the areas in which they live and work.

The spatial display of information allows local users the ability to do comparisons that can act as an incentive for changing perceptions and policies to promote healthy

living. In basic terms, the data can show how their region is doing relative to neighbouring areas. This can be a powerful tool in understanding the determinants and challenges of local areas, as well as successes they have attained. At a quick glance, a thematic map display can portray large regional comparisons, temporal changing patterns, and shifting demographics.

Best Practices

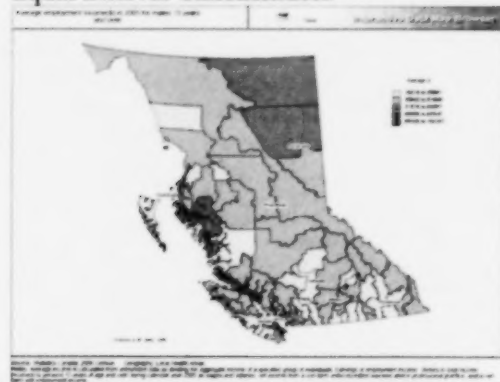
The only way to enter the data browser is through the "Create Map" button, which leads to a pop-up box. The data choices are delivered as a branch where the highest level are currently the 2001 or 2006 Census; followed by the data category (e.g. income) and the data variable (e.g. average employment income for males 15 years and over) at the end of the branch.

The thematic map choice includes four colour ramps; 3 to 7 range categories; and two ranging methods. The following map displays the white to green colour ramp; with five ranges (recommended) for the average income variable.

Ranging Methods

Data ranges most commonly used in thematic mapping are equal interval and equal distribution. It is important to know which to use, as each can produce very different data displays. For example, using the average income variable, when 'equal interval' (each category spans an equal range of values) is selected the highest quintile range begins at \$86,490 through to \$103,977. The following map indicates very few areas with high income earners across the province.

Equal Interval Classification:



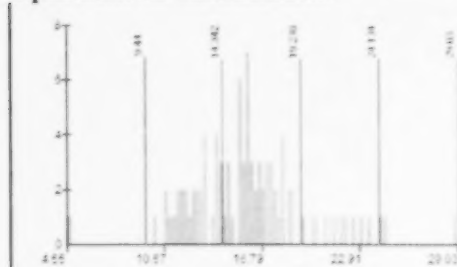
The same variable, ranged with 'equal distribution' (equal number of regions within each range show many high income earners in the northwestern regions. The highest range now begins at \$44,477 through to \$103,977.

Equal Distribution Classification (Quantiles)



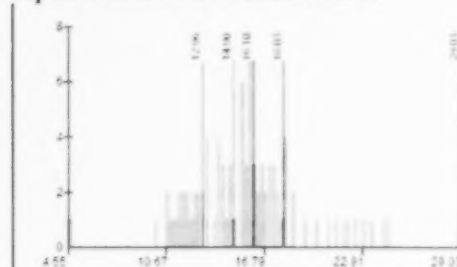
Ranging methods can also be illustrated within a data chart. The following chart uses the data variable 'lone parent families', and the equal interval range classification method. The 'equal interval' range calculates the data into equal spans of values, in this case five classifications. In the following graph, the lowest value is 4.55 and the highest value is 29.03. The five equal divisions of the data would put the cut-offs at 9.44, 14.34, 19.23 and 24.13.

Equal Interval Classification:



The next chart shows the 'equal distribution' of data, the lower and upper end values are the same; the five classification breaks are now at 12.96, 14.90, 16.10, and 18.03. The class breaks are done based on the equal number of regions within each class; in this case there are approximately 17 regions within each break.

Equal Distribution Classification:



Clearly, both the number of regions within each class and the value of the class divisions will graphically display very different stories.

Where to go from here?

Although this is only one analytical tool the general public can utilize, we intend to add others, such as comparative maps, tables and scatter plots. Other datasets within the holdings of BC Stats, such as the socio-economic profiles, population health and wellness survey data, etc., will be added as

available. Future versions may include infrastructure point data, such as schools, recreational facilities, hospitals, ambulance stations, and pharmacist locations.

The toolbox

The following is a list of the tools and what they do:



Tool button help – Select this button for help with tools



Toggle overview map – Select this tool to turn overview of Vancouver inset on / off



Zoom in – Select this tool, and click on the map to zoom in; or with the left mouse button pressed down, draw a bounding box on the map to zoom in closer



Zoom out – Select this tool, and click on the map to zoom out



Zoom to full extent – Select this tool to display full map



Back to previous extent – Select this tool to return to previous map view



Pan – Select this tool, and click on the map while holding the left mouse button down, and drag the map in any direction



Clear selection – Use this tool to erase each query

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This workshop teaches the fundamentals of designing and implementing an effective satisfaction survey. The course material will assist researchers in producing respondent friendly questionnaires that result in useful and accurate survey data. The course will also help to provide an understanding of the importance of client and employee satisfaction in strategic decision making and business planning. The unique aspects of this type of survey enable you to determine your client's service expectations and their perceptions of your organizations performance.

Workshop Topics include:

Survey Planning

- Performance measures
- Client satisfaction vs. employee satisfaction
- Fundamentals of collecting data and maximizing response

Sampling Methods

- Probability vs. non-probability sampling
- Sample types and exit surveys
- The factors affecting sample size

Questionnaires

- Question structure; open and closed questions
- Rating scales
- Questionnaire design; wording, sequencing and layout

Processing and Analysis

- The "drivers" of satisfaction
- Summarizing, graphing and presenting survey findings

VICTORIA

November 12-13, 2008

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

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Victoria, BC

Refreshments will be
served throughout



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Survey Sampling & Questionnaire Design

This workshop will provide you with the proper tools necessary to prepare a survey that gets results! Learn to maximize the value of your survey results by selecting a sample that truly represents your population. Learn how to design an effective questionnaire that will give you the information you need.

Workshop Topics include:

Survey Planning

- Five steps to formulate your information needs
- Fundamentals of collecting data and maximizing your response rates

Sampling Methods

- Sample types—simple random; systematic; stratified; cluster and multi-stage samples; area frames and intercept surveys
- Factors affecting sample size

Questionnaires

- Motivating response and minimizing error
- Questionnaire design—how to avoid common pitfalls in wording, sequencing and layout
- Question structure—open and closed questions, multiple choice, checklist, ranking, rating
- Processing survey responses

VANCOUVER

November 17-18, 2008

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Room 201, Library Square
300 West Georgia St.



Light refreshments will be served throughout the day

**Register early as
space is limited**

Fee is \$550 + GST

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Email transmission information service from BC Stats



also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)		
	Jul 1/08	% change on one year ago
BC	4,381.6	1.7
Canada	33,311.4	1.2
GDP and INCOME (Revised Apr 28)		
(BC - at market prices)	2007	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	190,214	5.5
GDP (\$ 2002 millions)	163,200	3.1
GDP (\$ 2002 per Capita)	37,258	1.7
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 2002 per Capita)	24,728	3.0
TRADE (\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Aug	3,314	-2.1
Merchandise Exports - Aug	2,903	3.4
Retail Sales - Aug	4,742	-0.9
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change on one year ago
(all items - Sep 2008)		12-month avg % change
BC	3.3	2.0
Vancouver	3.5	2.2
Victoria	2.9	1.5
Canada	3.4	2.5
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)	Sep '08	
Labour Force - BC	2,431	0.1
Employed - BC	2,319	-0.2
Unemployed - BC	112	7.2
		Aug '08
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	4.6	4.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	6.1	6.1
INTEREST RATES (percent)		
	Oct 29/08	Oct 31/07
Prime Business Rate	4.00	6.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	6.35	7.25
- 5 year	7.20	7.44
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE		
	Oct 29/08	Oct 31/07
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$ per US \$	1.2308	0.9499
(closing rate) US \$ per Cdn \$	0.8163	1.0585
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Sep '08	
BC	790.43	4.7
Canada	796.96	4.0

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Data and Health Mapping Browser

A new thematic mapping tool on our site will display a wide selection of BC Stats' data holdings. For a fee, BC Stats can create similar mapping tools for your organization using your own data for display on our site.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/maps/browsers.asp

2008 Small Business Profile

The 2008 edition of the Small Business Profile is now available. This report offers information on small business in British Columbia, including counts of establishments, employment, revenue, GDP and exports.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/sm_bus.asp#sbp

2008 High Technology Input Indicators

The 2008 edition of the Input Indicators of the British Columbia High Technology Sector is now available. This report looks at the inputs to high tech and can be considered a companion report to the Profile of the BC High Technology sector, which examines the sector's outputs.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/hi_tech.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- Business Indicators, October 2008
- Current Statistics, October 2008

Next week

- Tourism Sector Monitor, October 2008
- Labour Force Statistics, September 2008
- Earnings & Employment Trends, Sept. 2008